



THE RATTLER

RATTLESNAKE RIDGE GOLF CLUB | FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

GOLF MEMBERS

Cindy Curl & Mike McIlvain
Terry Kelso
James Kurek
Luke Pettigrew
Gib Tschudy

SOCIAL MEMBERS

Mark Almendinger
Craig Brown
Rick Brown
Gary Clark

IN MEMORIAM

BOB HERRON
1924-2009

Bob Herron, one of the early members at Rattlesnake Ridge Golf Club, died Jan. 20 at St. Ann's Hospital. At 84, Bob was the oldest member at RRG. He hit the ceremonial first tee shot off No. 1 to kick off the 2008 Opening Day Scramble and remained active throughout the 2008 golf season. According to the wishes of his family, Bob was buried in a Rattlesnake Ridge sweater vest.

The Year in Review

Memories of some of the highs and lows of 2008

APRIL

With a crowd looking on from the hillside, Bob Herron hit the ceremonial first shot from No. 1 tee, officially kicking off the 2008 golf season. (Bob died Jan. 20. See "In Memoriam," this page.)



Right down the middle: Longtime member Bob Herron kicked off the season with the opening shot in the April 19 Spring Scramble.

Three teams tied for first place in the Opening Day Spring Scramble with a score of 57.

The seasonal Taste of the Vine wine events, originally scheduled to end in February, went so well that two more were added, extending through April.

MAY

The Club's Mother's Day Brunch drew crowds and raves, with fresh flowers, a menu of delectable appetizers and entrees, and a *lovely* dark chocolate crème brûlée for dessert. (OK, there also was very nice lemon meringue pie.)

Heavy spring rains caused severe erosion of the creekbanks in several areas and undercut a number of significant trees. Course superintendent Kyle Frederick and crew brought in heavy equipment and installed tons of stone along the banks of holes 18 and 11.

The Party on the Patio series began on an unseasonably chilly May 24 Saturday night. Some folks migrated inside to finish the evening, others stayed outside for dessert and/or drinks and the music of the Jeff Allen Trio.

The father-son team of Tom Ritter and Rich Ritter won the Two-Man Match Play Championship in a shootout.

JUNE

Tom Owens, who had a stellar year (see Club Championship results in August), easily won the 36-hole Medal Play Championship with a score of 150.

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The Year in Review

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In the Men's Member-Guest Invitational, the Club's showcase event of the season, the team of Carmen Polisenio and guest Trent Sickles prevailed in a shootout over the second-place team of Gary Van Arsdale and guest Bob Ubbing.

JULY

The Art Committee *finally* hung artwork throughout the Clubhouse, to general approval. Noteworthy in the Grill Room is the photo of Ben Hogan's one-iron to the 18th green in the 1950 U.S. Open at Merion Country Club, shortly after his return from a near-fatal auto accident. It's widely considered to be golf's most famous photograph.

There was a full schedule of golf tournaments in July: Tom Ranney and Tom Ritter won the Men's Member-Member in a hotly contested shootout, while Tracey Hibbs and Anne McGhee captured the Women's Member-Member title.

February & March

CLUBHOUSE HOURS

GRILL ROOM

Tuesday – Sunday
11 am – 9 pm

Reservations: 614-410-1313 ext. 3

GOLF SHOP

Tuesday – Sunday
10 am – 5 pm

For course conditions and availability, contact the Golf Shop: 614-410-1399

In other events, Philip Rosebery took the Junior Club Championship, and Mike Burns blitzed the field in the Big Sandy Classic with a net score of 64.

AUGUST

An Aug. 1 chemical run-off incident at a Licking County farm affected Rattlesnake Creek, resulting in a fish kill of "at least 30,000," according to the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Ohio EPA and Wildlife officers were all over Rattlesnake. Cleanup efforts undertaken by the farmer were greatly aided by what an EPA official called "an act of God," a huge rainfall that swept the contamination downstream.

It was Hollywood for a day Aug. 16, when the Ladies' Day Invitational took over the Club. The Academy Awards theme spawned some ingeniously decorated golf carts, an Oscar-centered trivia contest, clubhouse decorations and more. Pat Wand's group won the cart decorating contest and Tracey Hibbs, Pat Murray and Cindy Swope won the trivia contest. There also was some golf played: Ellen Koinis, Louise Coots and Lois Cujas, guests of member Julie Cooper, won the tournament with a score of 62.

RRGC participated for the first time in the New Albany Chamber's "Taste of New Albany" event on Aug. 17, taking second place in the overall "Best of the Taste" category against major competition. The sold-out event included well-known food vendors such as Smith and Wollensky, McCormick & Schmick's and Cap City Diner.

Rattlesnake Ridge membership director Derek Denlinger was one of three qualifiers in a field of 80 at Camargo Club in Cincinnati who advanced to the USGA Amateur Championship Aug. 18-19 at famed Pinehurst in North Carolina.

Tom Owens won the 2008 Men's Club Championship in a 36-hole final over runner-up Rich Ritter.

SEPTEMBER

The remnants of Hurricane Ike roared through on Sunday, Sept. 14, breaking support wires on one of the big power towers, which started it swaying. The storm also flattened or broke some 30 trees—many of which, fortunately, were peripheral. The maintenance staff had the back nine playable for a high school golf event on Monday.

John Scanlan, the first person to join Rattlesnake Ridge, even before it opened in 2001, died Sept. 19 while jogging in Tennessee. Members who knew him were shocked; John had been an avid runner and had competed in numerous triathalons.

September had a full schedule of golf events. Tom Ritter, continuing to ride a hot streak, won the Senior Club Championship in a playoff over Tom Walters, after both finished tied with a score of 151. Tracey Hibbs won the Rattlesnake Ridge Women's Club Championship for the second time, following her 2004 victory. Julie and Steve Leonhardt shot 78 to take the Couples' Club Championship. And in the Rattlesnake Cup team event, the Sidewinders, captained by assistant professional Bill Bentz, edged out the Diamondback team, captained by head pro Brian Reppart and honorary captain Bob Herron.

NOVEMBER

The biggest field ever for a Rattlesnake Ridge club event turned out for the season-ending Chili Scramble, also known as Kyle's Revenge because of the traditionally nasty pin placements for this tournament. In the men's division, the winners were Kevin Campbell, Bob Fletcher, Jon Furrow and Dave Tedrow, with a score of 57. The mixed division winners were John Connell, Debbie Connell, Bryan Connell and Justin Ensign, with a score of 60.

Chaos, the Club's small, spunky, people-loving yellow cat, died of a gunshot wound sometime around Nov. 28. His body was found near the maintenance road along No. 9 fairway. His killer is unknown. As a stray kitten a couple of years ago, Chaos decided

to make his home in the maintenance building, where his presence and personality took center stage. He had an idyllic life at RRGC, outdoors by day and sleeping and eating in the warm comfort of the maintenance building at night. He is missed.

DECEMBER

A good crowd turned out Dec. 6 for the Holiday Open House and Golf Shop Sale,

kicking off the holiday season at RRGC. A representative from Heidelberg Distributors was on hand to serve complimentary wine samples. Nearly every Friday and Saturday in December was booked for member-hosted holiday parties, which made for a busy, festive month at the Club.

The weather stayed fairly mild for much of this usually wintery month, and the course

remained open and available for play, attracting comparatively large numbers of hardy souls not yet ready to put the clubs away. On Dec. 27, for example, there were nearly 20 players on the course, and 10 members played on Dec. 30. The year came to an end on Dec. 31 with a Grill Room full of diners ringing in the New Year. ■

■ 2009 Golf Calendar ■

(Regular weekly events: Tuesday Ladies' Twilight, Wednesday Men's Twilight, Friday Couples' Twilight, Friday Pot Game, Saturday Bandits, Sunday Couples)

MARCH

- 24 Ladies' Night
- 25 Men's Stag Dinner

APRIL

- 11 Masters
- 18 Spring Scramble
- 30 Ladies' Golf School

MAY

- 7, 14, 21 Ladies' Golf School
- 9 Demo Day
- 16-17 Two-Man Match Play
- 25 Memorial Day
- 26 Closed

JUNE

- 13-14 Medal Play
- 15-19 Junior Golf Camp #1
(Ages 13-18)
- 20 U.S. Open
- 25-27 Men's Member-Guest

JULY

- 4 Independence Day
- 7-10 Junior Golf Camp #2
(Ages 6-12)
- 11 Men's and Women's
Member-Member
- 14 Junior Club Championship
- 18 British Open
- 19 Member-Junior
- 25 Big Sandy Classic

AUGUST

- 1 Men's Club Championship
Begins
- 8 Ladies' Day
- 15 PGA Championship
- 29 Men's Club Championship
Finals
- 29-30 Senior & Women's Club
Championship

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Labor Day
- 8 Closed
- 10 Ladies' Twilight Roundup
- 12 OSU vs. USC
- 18 Couples' Roundup
- 27 Couples' Club Championship

OCTOBER

- 2-4 Rattlesnake Cup
- 5-6 Fairway Aeration

NOVEMBER

- 1 Chili Scramble
(Kyle's Revenge)
- 2-3 Greens Aeration
- 26 Closed (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER

- 5 Holiday Sale and Open House
- 24-25 Closed (Christmas)

A Tale about Pickles

On a golf trip to Charlotte, N.C., in the fall of 2007, some Rattlesnake Ridge members stopped by a well-known Charlotte hole-in-the-wall called The Penguin, a place famous for its lack of pretense, its cold beer and its always excellent food. "If you go to The Penguin, you gotta have the fried dill pickles," a Charlotte golfing companion told the group.

So they did, and the RRGC members were so impressed with The Penguin's fried pickles that they started wondering if they could obtain the recipe, reportedly a secret family recipe dating back to the Civil War. Finally, through circuitous means and the help of a third-party restaurateur, they were able to get it.

And that's how The Penguin's Fried Dill Pickles are available on the Rattlesnake appetizer menu. Sliced thin with a light, delicate covering, our pickles are served with ranch dressing, just like they are at The Penguin.



The dreaded "wintry mix"

Snow and ice were the order of the day on Saturday, Jan. 31, following a week of frigid temperatures and precipitation in most of the variations of snow and what TV weather calls wintry mix. Regardless of the frosty front-door scenery, the clubhouse whirred along warmly inside, with a sizable private party in the evening and quite a bit of member dining as well.

COMING EVENTS

VALENTINE'S DAY

Friday, Feb. 13, and Saturday, Feb. 14

Chef Brandon has crafted a menu with a little spice, a little silk, a little heat, with sweet strawberries, smooth Brie, a luxurious, creamy bisque, sea scallops kissed with lobster sauce, chicken with honey and thyme, a savory steak au poivre with red-wine sauce . . . and two chocolate desserts.

Mark your calendar, make your reservations. (614-410-1313 ext. 3)

TASTE OF THE VINE

Saturday, Feb. 21

In this fourth month of Rattlesnake's 2008-'09 wine-tasting series, we'll gather to swirl and sip some voluptuous reds, with imported and domestic cheeses and fresh fruit as accompaniments. It all starts at 7 pm. Cost for the tasting adventure is \$17.95 per person.

Chef's Specials will be available afterward, as well as the Grill Room's regular menu.

Reservations are required for these events; please call soon. (614-410-1313 ext. 3)

CHILI COOK-OFF & POKER TOURNAMENT

Saturday, Feb. 28

Here's a new event to brighten up the last day of February. Members are invited to prepare and bring their own scrumptious chili recipes. Attendees will sample the chilis and vote, and Chef Brandon will use the winning recipe to warm participants in next November's Chili Scramble. Pick up a flyer in the Clubhouse if you didn't get one with *The Rattler*. (If you're cooking, please RSVP to Chef Brandon at 614-410-1313 ext. 831.)

Also on the agenda is a Texas Hold-Em poker tournament, \$20 buy-in with multiple tables if needed. Bring your sunglasses and best poker face.

Come for the chili, the poker, or both. Hope to see you there.